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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
John Richter :
Application No. 10/736,001 : ON APPLICATION FOR
Filed: December 15, 2003 : PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Atty Docket No. 14012-053001/ :
50-03-034 :
:

This is in response to the APPLICATION FOR PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.705(b) filed January 27, 2009. Applicant submits that the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent is five hundred fifty-two (552) days, not four hundred forty-two (442) days as calculated by the Office as of the mailing of the initial determination of patent term adjustment. Applicant requests this correction in part on the basis that the Office will take in excess of three years to issue this patent¹. In addition, applicant disputes a period of reduction of 2 days for applicant delay.

To the extent that the instant application for patent term adjustment requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the filing date, the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) is **DISMISSED as PREMATURE.**

¹ This calculation is based on a request for continued examination (RCE) having been filed in this application on April 2, 2007. An RCE cuts-off their ability to accumulate any additional patent term for over three year pendency. The 1.702(b) period excludes any period consumed by continued examination requested by applicant under 35 U.S.C. 132(b).

Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentee is entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See § 1.702(b). (This is true even where a request for continued examination (RCE) was filed). The computer will not undertake the § 1.702(b) calculation until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. Likewise, the computer will not calculate any further Office delay under § 1.702(a)(4) or applicant delay under § 1.704(c)(10) until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. As such, the Office can not make a determination on the correctness of the patent term adjustment until the patent has issued.

Requesting reconsideration of the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent under 37 CFR 1.705(b) based on the initial determination of patent term adjustment and a projected issuance date of the patent (or even the filing date of the request for continued examination) is premature. Accordingly, it is appropriate to dismiss as premature such a request.

Rather than file an application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) contesting the 37 CFR 1.702(b) calculation at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, applicant is advised that they may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). As the USPTO does not calculate the amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent. However, as to all other bases for contesting the initial determination of patent term adjustment received with the notice of allowance, applicant must timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee².

² For example, if applicant disputes both the calculation of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) for Office failure to mail a first Office action or notice of allowance not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed and under 37 CFR 1.702(b) for Office failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the application, then applicant must still timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee to contest the calculation of Office delay in issuing a first Office action or notice of allowance. See 37 CFR 1.705(b) and 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B). A dispute as to the calculation of the §1.702(a)(1) period raised on request for

To the extent that applicant otherwise requests correction of the patent term adjustment at the time of mailing of the notice of allowance, the application for patent term adjustment is **DISMISSED**.

On December 1, 2008, the Office mailed the Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) in the above-identified application. The Notice stated that the patent term adjustment (PTA) to date is 442 days. On January 27, 2009, applicant timely submitted the instant application for patent term adjustment³. Applicant disputes a period of reduction of 2 days associated with their filing of a response after non-final Office action on August 11, 2008, three months and 2 days after the mailing of the non-final Office action on May 9, 2008.

The record supports a conclusion that the above-identified application is not subject to a terminal disclaimer.

Applicant's attention is directed to 37 CFR 1.703(f), which provides that "[t]he date indicated on any certificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 shall not be taken into account in this calculation" of patent term adjustment. See also, Comment 10, Changes to Implement Patent Term Adjustment under Twenty-Year Patent Term; Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 54366 (September 18, 2000). Accordingly, applicant's argument on application for patent term adjustment is not found persuasive. Thus, while the date indicated on any certificate of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8 will continue to be taken into account in determining timeliness, the date of filing (37 CFR 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation. Applicant may wish to consider the use of the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service (37 CFR 1.10) or facsimile transmission (37 CFR 1.6(d)) for replies to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

Alternatively, applicant may choose to mail correspondence with sufficient time to ensure that the correspondence is received in the Office (and stamped with a date of receipt) before the expiration of the three-month period. The period of reduction of 2 days associated with the August 11, 2008 filing is warranted and will not be removed.

reconsideration of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d) will be dismissed as untimely filed.

³ PALM records indicate that the issue fee was also paid on January 27, 2009.

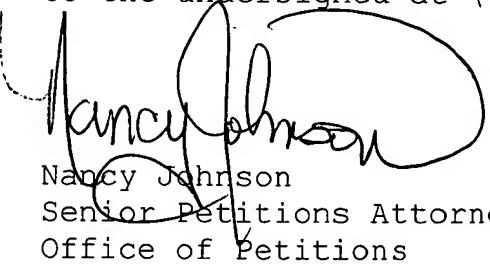
The Office acknowledges submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e) for consideration of the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b).

Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated on the patent must be timely filed within 2 months after issuance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d) and must include payment of the required fee under 37 CFR 1.18(e).

Applicant is reminded that any delays by the Office pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(a)(4) and 1.702(b) and any applicant delays under 37 CFR 1.704(c)(10) will be calculated at the time of the issuance of the patent and applicants will be notified of the revised patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent in the Issue Notification letter that is mailed to applicant approximately three weeks prior to issuance.

The Office of Data Management has been advised of this decision. This matter is being referred to the Office of Data Management for issuance of the patent.

Telephone inquiries specific to this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3219.


Nancy Johnson
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Office of Petitions